

SECTION II—CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
 - forming a cladding material over a substrate;
 - lithographically patterning and etching the cladding material to obtain core regions and a spacing between the core regions that is made of the cladding material;
 - filling the core regions with a core material;
 - using a chemical–mechanical process to remove excess core material formed over the core regions and over the cladding material; and
 - forming another cladding material over the core regions and over the spacing.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein etching the cladding material comprises using an anisotropic etching technique.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein filling the core regions comprises using a deposition technique.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein filling the core regions comprises using a re-flow process.
- 5.-6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein lithographically patterning the cladding material includes using a mask.
- 8.-22. (Canceled)